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Ad Astra Per Aspera
or
Acquiring a Home for the Association

Literally, but in a figurative sense, the title of this article means *to the stars through difficulties.* In plain words it means that desirable goals are attained only by labor and hardships. The history of human achievement confirms the truth of this saying, and it has just been illustrated to a limited degree in the Association's acquiring a home of its own. At least the Association has acquired a property which provides adequate office space for the present and opens alluring prospects for the future.

Why might one say that the Association, by its purchase of a property, has ascended to the stars? The justification for using extravagant figurative language is that it would be difficult and probably impossible to find available in all of Washington another property which meets so adequately the immediate needs of the Association and at the same time offers so many advantages for permanent development.

The Property

As to the location of the property, it is ideal for the purposes of the Association, for it faces Scott Circle, which is at the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue, 16th Street, N Street, and Rhode Island Avenue. Massachusetts Avenue is perhaps the most notable boulevard in Washington. It runs past the Union Station and the plaza opposite the Capitol in a northwesterly direction to Scott Circle, which the property purchased by the Association faces. To the westward it is often called the "Avenue of Embassies," for the Embassies of Great Britain and other important countries face it, and it continues past the Naval Observatory, the Washington Cathedral property, and the campus of American University.

Five blocks directly southward from Scott Circle Sixteenth Street ends in Lafayette Square, and immediately beyond that stands the White House, followed by parks extending to the Potomac River. Rhode Island Avenue is the direct automobile route to Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York. The beginning of the corresponding road to Richmond and cities to the south is on 14th Street, two blocks to the east, while the route to western cities is out Massachusetts Avenue.

The property purchased by the Association is in the midst of the permanent homes of many scientific institutions and organizations. For example, within three blocks and fronting on 16th Street are the Carnegie Institution of Washington, the American Chemical Society, the National Geographic Society, the National Educational Association, and the American Council of Learned Societies; and within the same general area are the Brookings Institution, the Cosmos Club, the University Club, the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, and several of the leading hotels in Washington. Obviously such property would be highly desirable as the site of a permanent home for the Association or would be readily salable when building of hotels is again permitted if the Association should decide to establish its permanent home in another city.

The property itself is as advantageous as its location. It is a four-sided area, not square but a trapezoid facing a street on each of its four sides. On the north it faces N Street between Scott Circle and 15th Street, a distance of 144 feet. This boundary is in an east-west line. On the east it faces 15th Street, a north-south street, for a distance of nearly 100 feet. It faces Massachusetts Avenue from its intersection with 15th Street for a distance of about 160 feet in a northwesterly direction to Scott Circle; and it has a frontage of 32 feet on the little park on the east side of Scott Circle. It is a continuous area of 9275 square feet with no abutting property on any side.

There are five houses on the property, all of which were built many years ago but which are still in very good condition. The one on the west side toward Scott Circle, occupying about 40 percent of the area, is a large three story house containing 26 rooms in addition to an excellent basement. This building, which has 4000 square feet of floor space, has been occupied during the war period by the Air Transport Association, which will vacate within a few weeks. That space which is soon to become available will be first occupied by the Association.

On the remainder of the property there are four houses, one fronting on Massachusetts Avenue and the other three on 15th Street. These buildings, having together 47 rooms, are in good condition and are occupied as rooming houses. It probably would not be possible to get them vacated at present were it desired to do so. As it is, they are sources of considerable revenue. It will be clear that if the Association were to sell this property at some future time, instead of developing it for its own permanent use, it would be highly advantageous to own the entire "Square," as it is called in Washington. Likewise, if the Association were to build its permanent home on the property, it should protect itself against the possibility of part of the area being used for some purpose that would be objectionable. For these reasons the entire square was acquired.

The Purchase

It will probably be surprising that the Association has been able to acquire a property having so many advantages. It is not only surprising but amazing, because so many essential conditions had to be satisfied simultaneously that one would have thought there was little chance of their being realized. The diagonal avenues, Massachusetts and Rhode Island, superimposed on the usual rectangular network of streets oriented with respect to the principal points of the compass gave rise to the many beautiful small park areas known as "Circles" for which Washington is noted. This particular "square" at Scott Circle many years ago became the site of what were then fine, if not luxurious, private homes. With the passing of decades homes in the vicinity were eventually succeeded by high-grade apartment buildings and hotels or became the sites for the headquarters of such scientific and cultural organizations as have been mentioned. But all the original buildings remained standing on Square N 196, mostly under control of the heirs of the original owners. That the owners of the four pieces of property constituting the square should independently desire at the same time to sell their holdings is quite remarkable; and it is even more remarkable that they should all deal independently through the same real estate broker.

Finally, the Association for the first time in the 98 years of its existence has been financially able to avail itself of such an opportunity as that which has developed. Even this readiness of the Association for the action taken could hardly have been expected. Last October the Association sent out to all its members a letter asking for contributions toward a building fund for a permanent home. No site or even city for the home was mentioned. No plans were outlined. No committees or teams or even individuals were appointed to solicit contributions. No pressures were brought on the membership. There was not even a follow-up letter. With regrets that at the time it was necessary to be vague as to final plans, and in spite of the unparalleled confusion following the close of the war the letter was mailed. According to all theories of experts in such matters the result should have been a dismal failure. But—*one hundred thousand dollars were contributed!*

It is natural to measure values in terms of money, but there were other reactions to the letter of the Association to its members regarding a permanent home that cannot be expressed in such units. It is impossible to express them satisfactorily even in words. Letters received from young scientists, from teachers, both men and women, in small colleges and high schools, from scientists who have retired on too slender annuities for these times—in short, from a wide cross-section of about 2450 Americans—often radiated such optimism, altruism, and wholly unselfish human goodness that, even though the world at present is much awry, the future of the Association, of science, and of our civilization is by no means dark. From this point of view contributions of only one dollar, of which there were many, were as important as those for larger sums. Somewhat on the fantastic side, a member from a far western state who could not make a very large contribution himself "roped in" a considerable number of his friends for one dollar apiece, a small amount because they were not Association members. A little later he prevailed on several of them to become members, partly on the ground that they had financial interests in the Association.

Obviously 9275 square feet of ground in one plot, facing on four streets in one of the best residential areas in Washington, is valuable. The purchase price of the property was $147,650, part of which was paid from the contributions of members to the building fund and the remainder from the available balance from current operations. No part of the permanent funds of the Association in the hands of the treasurer was used. The Association now has office space adequate for the near future and ground on which a permanent home may be erected.

Before the property was purchased the officers of the Association checked very thoroughly the question of values. The property was visited and examined by Dr. A. N. Richards, of Philadelphia, and Dr. Philip Bard, of Baltimore, out-of-Washington members of a special committee on building for the Association; by Drs. A. J. Carlson, Walter R. Miles, Burton E. Livingston, Kirtley F. Mather and F. R. Moulton, members of the Executive Committee; by Mr. Warren E. Magee, attorney for the Association, Dr. H. G. Moulton, President of the Brookings Institution, and members of the office staff. Other officers and former officers of the Association who are familiar with the area in which the property is located and strongly recommended its purchase include Dr. C. F. Kettering, president of the Association in 1945 and now chairman of the Executive Committee, Dr. Arthur H. Compton, president of the Association in 1942, now a member of the Executive Committee, and Dr. Otis W. Caldwell, General Secretary of the Association and a member of the Executive Committee. In addition, Mr. F. P. H. Siddons, vice president of the American Security and Trust Company (Washington) and chairman of the Finance Committee of the Association, being familiar with the property and on advice of real estate experts, recommended the purchase of the entire square.

What of Plans for the Future

Obviously plans for the future of the Association should and will depend upon the nature and extent of the support science and education will receive. As yet scientists and educators are to a considerable degree under the war hysteria. It is a time of superlatives in both pessimism and optimism, and one in which grandiose schemes are likely to blossom beautifully and fade dismally, as they did after World War I. Fortunately the Association is in a position in which it is not necessary to plunge at once into undertakings which will commit it irrevocably for a long time in the future.

Yet this it not a time for drifting, but one in which the very foundations of our social order and the relations of science to it should be discussed and rediscussed. As far as our efforts in the war are concerned, scientists played a very important role, not only as scientists but also as initiators and administrators of great undertakings. The farmers made a tremendous contribution under very difficult conditions. As for industry, one has only to contrast the superb performance of the railroads during this war with the congestions and chaos of the first world war to appreciate what it accomplished. The production of ships and airplanes and munitions was equally impressive. In short, this country, men and women, waged an all-out war. Now it should make an all-out effort to achieve an equal success in peace. The Association will plan for its future activities with these large horizons always in view.

Science will continue to be supported by universities, federal and state governments, foundations and industry. In the immediate future governmental subsidies of science will almost certainly greatly increase, but support by universities and foundations will probably relatively decline. It seems likely that support of scientific research by industries, in their own laboratories and in universities, will rapidly expand. Developments of such far-reaching importance for the future of this country and of civilization call for the highest order of scientific statesmanship.

Where will such scientific statesmanship be found? Not in general among isolated specialists, however distinguished they may be in their own fields. It is more likely to be found among those whose interests range widely over the various fields of science, or in groups from different fields who are cooperating on some great problem. During the last forty or fifty years science has been divided and subdivided, with some advantages and some disadvantages, into progressively more and more specialized fields. However, close contacts among scientists having widely differing chief interests have been maintained for the few by the National Academy of Sciences, and for the many by the American Association for the Advancement of Science. This is evidently one of the reasons why committees of Congress and Departments of the Government are calling on the Association with increasing frequency for information about scientists and about the opinions of scientists on subjects in which the Government is interested.

It will be clear from the foregoing report that the foundations have now been laid for the Asso-

ciation to become an important influence in science, particularly in its relations to matters of wide general interest. If it were thought that it would be advantageous to American science if the headquarters of the Association were developed into a scientific center in which the smaller affiliated societies might find homes or a place to preserve their archives, it could be arranged, for under the building code for Washington a structure eight stories high could be erected on the "Square" which has been purchased. For the present the Association has no definite plans except to consider carefully and repeatedly the great responsibilities resting on scientists and to determine how it may be of greatest service in helping scientists meet them. But in the interval before its final plans can be carried out it invites the cooperation of its thousands of members and friends in accumulating the resources to put its final plans into effect.

There are many monuments in the world, most of which have been erected to commemorate events or to glorify heroes and prevent their passing into oblivion. It is hoped that the Association in due time will erect a dignified structure on its Square at Scott Circle, dedicated to the sole purpose of providing facilities for securing for all mankind a better future.

The Council votes on S.1850

At Saint Louis the Executive Committee of the Association agreed unanimously that the Senate bill creating a National Science Foundation deserves official support. It was voted to recommend to the Council that a special committee, headed by Dr. Conant, be appointed for the purpose of coordinating action among scientists to assure passage of S.1850 at this session of Congress or, failing that, to develop sentiment which will assure its re-introduction and passage when the next Congress convenes in January, 1947.

The Council unanimously adopted this recommendation, but, recognizing that the members present and voting at Saint Louis comprised only a minority of the total membership, a mail vote was authorized. Dr. Conant expressed the conviction that his committee should proceed only if a clear majority of the entire Council favored action by the Association on S.1850 and only if two-thirds or more of those voting endorsed the Executive Committee's recommendation.

A few votes are still coming in. During the last five days all ballots received were affirmative, hence it seems logical to conclude that those opposing support for the National Science Foundation registered their opposition promptly and —in several instances—emphatically by the addition of comments, which were welcome. As this issue of the Bulletin goes to press, the vote stands 230 in favor of, and 10 against, the creation of Dr. Conant's special committee. One council member returned a blank ballot, and one submitted an unsigned ballot.

Although an Associated Press reporter, informed of the Council vote, has professed to see little news value in the fact that scientists favor a National Science Foundation, scientists will agree that it *is* news when they turn in a vote of 23 to 1 in favor of anything. Despite their rigid training and their supposed scientific approach, scientists too rarely come out with a virtually unanimous opinion on any subject, though each, by virtue of his rigorous training, is inclined to be dogmatic about the conclusions he has reached. But it would be as unfair as it would be easy to dismiss the negative vote of the ten who are opposed to a National Science Foundation. Approximately half of them have communicated their views to the Permanent Secretary's Office, and all of them appear to share one fear: A government-created foundation may be the beginning of political control of science.

It is impossible for those who have weighed every clause in S.1850 to share this fear, and it is significant that the group which most ardently fought political control—the Committee Supporting the Bush Report—is satisfied with the integrity preserved to science and to scientists in the proposed legislation. The reasoning of the dissenters is not clear. In the first place, it seems to be predicated on the asumption that, under the foundation, federal funds will displace the private funds which are now available for research, whereas the federal funds will merely supplement those contributed by industry, by private foundations and institutions, and by private individuals. How the National Science Foundation can exercise any control, political or otherwise, over these private sources of support, the dissenters fail to explain. Once this fact is grasped, continued opposition to the Foundation must be based on the bland assumption that current financial support for all research is adequate.

It is true that, in certain fields—notably chemistry and engineering—industry has generously supported many phases of research, and the need of additional support may not be evident. But are the chemists and engineers who benefit from this support justified in opposing new sources of financial aid for those branches of science and

technology that have long been undernourished or underdeveloped? And in their fear of political control of other fields—since their own will continue to receive independent, non-political support—are they not ignoring a counter-fear which has troubled large segments of our population; namely, industrial control? There is as much warrant—or as little—for distrust of industrial domination as of political control. It follows that, if both means of support are available for scholarships to students, for research projects, for scientific endeavor of many kinds, science and the scientist will, for the first time, be truly free. For this reason, if no other, S.1850 deserves the support of all who are fearful of domination or control. It will free industry from the suspicion of dominating research while industrial sponsorship will keep the Foundation from exercising political control.

At the moment, however, the ten dissenters stand a better chance of having their way than the 225 supporters of S.1850. The bill has been reported out of committee and is on the Senate calendar. In the normal course of events it would come up for discussion before this item could be printed. But there are other bills crowding it and, the Senate calendar being what it is, S.1850 can too easily lose its place to bills which Senators are under greater pressure to pass. It is imperative that the pressure for the National Science Foundation be equalized if it is to retain its place on the calendar. This is the obligation of every scientist, for even the best committee Dr. Conant can appoint, will scarcely be able to counter the pressures exerted by proponents of bills relating to other questions, much less the internal pressure for an early adjournment to meet the problems of an election year.

Since the Council voted, Dr. Conant has asked Detlev W. Bronk, A. J. Carlson, Magnus I. Gregersen, H. A. Meyerhoff, E. O. Lawrence, E. C. Stakman, and Charles A. Thomas to serve as members of the Committee. This group has scarcely had time to go into action, and their efforts will be ineffectual if their fellow scientists are not also ready to act. The Congress is in a position where it must pick and choose from among the many bills before it. The choices are not capricious. Congressmen know they must pass appropriations. On other legislation they are guided by their own committees, by the Administration, by government departments, and by their constituents. Pressure from two or more sources is deemed especially significant, and right now scientists should be vocal regarding S.1850. A letter has been sent to every Senator stressing the importance of the bill and pointing out that it is unique among bills, for it embodies six months of research, analysis and debate that led to general agreement among senators, scientists, and government departments and bureaus. It is not often that legislation is so broadly based, and on these grounds scientists can request their representatives to give S.1850 nonpartisan and wholehearted support.

The Congressional schedule is tight. The bill must pass the Senate quickly if it is to be considered in the House during the current session. Hence Senate action is critical. It seems probable that, if S.1850 passes without serious mutilation, the bill will stand a good chance of passing in the House before Congress recesses in July. If, on the other hand, consideration of the bill is delayed, or if debate is overly long, the bill is not likely to come before the House, and it will die with adjournment. The National Science Foundation will then be dependent upon the introduction and reception of a new bill in the 80th Congress, which assembles in Washington next January. True, Senator Thomas of Utah has pledged himself to introduce it again if it fails to pass this year. But new members of Congress must be informed; interest must be aroused among scientists and Congressmen again; at best the operation of the National Science Foundation will be delayed a year.

Clearly the effort can be made more easily now than in January, 1947, and its chances of success are greater. Nearly every American scientist has two Senators representing him. It is appropriate to ask that they represent their scientific constituents by keeping S.1850 in its present place on the calendar, and by passing it without amendment.—H.A.M.

The Invitation from Boston

The Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Honorable Maurice J. Tobin, and the presidents or representatives of seventeen universities, colleges, scientific societies, and cultural institutions of Boston and environs last January and February sent individual invitations to the Association to hold its next annual meeting in Boston. At the St. Louis meeting the Council voted to accept the invitation and the meeting is scheduled for next December 26–31, inclusive.

Since many months are required to make satisfactory arrangements for such great and complex meetings as those of the Association, on April 18 a letter was sent to the inviting organizations accepting their invitations and asking their co-

operation in making the meeting a success. The letter contains so much information about what must be done in preparation for a meeting that it is reproduced in full below for the information and possible amusement of the readers. And those who read it will be less likely to criticize caustically if everything at Boston is not much better than they enjoy (or suffer) at home.

It is a pleasure to notify you officially that the American Association for the Advancement of Science at its recent St. Louis meeting, on recommendation of its Executive Committee and by unanimous vote of its Council, accepted your invitation to hold its next annual meeting in Boston. The meeting will open on Thursday, December 26, 1946, and continue through Tuesday, December 31, 1946.

The Association accepted your cordial invitation in part because Boston offers exceptional accommodations for a meeting in which more than fifty affiliated and associated societies of the Association will participate and which will be attended by at least five thousand scientists from outside the Boston area. It will be necessary to have at least sixty meeting rooms for possible simultaneous use, each with a seating capacity of more than seventy-five persons. Obviously the Association will need your generous cooperation in providing these many meeting rooms and securing for them projection lanterns and other required equipment. Almost equally important will be the providing of competent manpower to assist in arranging in advance the many details for such a great combination of meetings. It is earnestly hoped that each of the educational institutions joining in the invitation to the Association will appoint from its staff a few persons having exceptional executive ability to cooperate with representatives of the Association in what must be a joint undertaking.

The Association accepted your cordial invitation also because the Boston area, from colonial days, has been a principal center of education and culture in our country and is the home of some of our greatest educational institutions. In such an environment the high aims of the Association will be understood and appreciated and, reciprocally, many members of the Association will get pleasure and inspiration from such surroundings. It is suggested that the educational and cultural institutions which joined in the invitation to the Association consider ways of assisting the visiting scientists to become better acquainted with Boston as an enduring center of civilization. In these critical days, particularly, interests of scientists range far beyond the limited areas of their respective special fields, as has been abundantly shown in their recent discussions of national and international problems.

You will note that the period of the Boston meeting, as defined in the beginning of this letter, includes Sunday, December 29. The question will arise as to what scientists should do on that day. It is quite likely that at least some scientific sessions will be held. The British Association for the Advancement of Science, whose meetings usually extend over Saturday and Sunday, have regarded such week-ends as appropriate times for visiting historic sites and structures, for attending musical performances and special lectures on philosophy or ethics, and for making excursions to art galleries, museums, and historic churches. Members of the British Association often deliver Sunday addresses from university and church pulpits, apparently in harmony with the opinion that scientists also have access to the "eternal verities" as well as clergymen. Such possibilities for the meeting at Boston might be explored by local participants in plans for the meeting. Please understand that these are merely suggestions for possible activities that will have to be initiated and carried out, if at all, largely by local institutions and organizations.

It is necessary to start in the very near future on plans for the Boston meeting. Two representatives of the Association, Mr. Theo. J. Christensen, who will be in charge of the Science Exhibition, and Doctor John M. Hutzel, who will be in general charge of physical requirements, will visit Botson for a preliminary survey. They will call on some of you; please give them such advice and assistance as may be possible at this time. In addition, if you will comment briefly in writing, addressed to this office, on the suggestions contained in this letter, including both matters of general interest and also specific things your respective institutions might undertake to do, the cooperation will be greatly appreciated by the executive officers of the Association. In addition, wholly independent suggestions from you will be gratefully received.—F. R. M.

UNESCO and Science

The relation between science and UNESCO is puzzling scientists, and for good reason. They do not know what UNESCO proposes to do, hence they can not know what to do with UNESCO. The question is an important one, and it is encumbent upon the State Department to make an early announcement about UNESCO and its functions, particularly in relation to science. In the absence of an official release, an effort will be made to give members of the Association as much information as is available in this office.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization was evolved as a specialized organization of the United Nations for the interchange of knowledge and the promotion of understanding among the peoples of different countries. On November 15, 1945, the constitution of the proposed organization was completed and signatures of the heads of the delegations of the United Nations were placed upon the final act of the conference on November 16. As stated in the preamble to the constitution, the Organization has been created "for the purpose of advancing, through the educational and scientific and cultural relations of the people of the world, the objectives of international peace and of the common welfare of mankind for which the United Nations Organization was established and which its charter proclaims." Article I sets forth the purposes and functions somewhat more tangibly: The Organization will contribute to international peace and security by promoting collaboration by means of mass communication, education, and the diffusion of knowledge, but it

is "prohibited from intervening in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction" of the member states.

When objectives are phrased in such cautions and general terms, it is difficult to translate them into specific and concrete activities to be performed by groups of individuals. Since the November conference the member states have been busy effecting this translation. This month and next in London, the several working divisions of UNESCO will endeavor to evolve a program, which can be put into operation only after the constitution has been ratified by twenty member states. Up to the present time only two states have ratified it.

In the absence of information, scientists may reasonably wonder what part they may play in UNESCO, especially after reading the cynical editorial which appeared not long ago in the *New York Times*. They may question what an international organization of this kind can do that has not been done in the past by the several international scientific unions and congresses. They may reasonably ask who is to speak for American science in the international matters with which UNESCO will deal. These are pertinent questions, and answers must be provided as soon as possible by the Department of State.

Only a few preliminary answers can be given to this article. The Department of State has been exploring the situation by conferences with scientists in different fields. Announcement will soon be made of the appointment of an advisory committee through which, it is hoped, American scientists will feel they have satisfactory representation. Such a committee, however, can not pretend to speak for American science as a whole, and it must discover means whereby scientists may contribute their ideas freely to UNESCO. The committee must also outline projects which may appropriately be undertaken by the international organization. It is evident that, if UNESCO is to get off to a creditable and effective start, it should not be weighted down by projects that are too ambitious, or too intangible, or too impractical. The aims of UNESCO must be consistently lofty but never unattainable.—H.A.M.

The American Society of Mammalogists

The American Society of Mammalogists was founded on April 3, 1919, when approximately 60 persons from various parts of the United States and Canada assembled in Washington, D. C., in response to a call by a committee on organization. The need for a society devoted to the study of mammals had been evident throughout the earlier years of the present century. That the step to organize was not premature is shown by the fact that at the time of the Society's incorporation, April 29, 1920, it had 441 members. During ensuing years the roster of active members has increased gradually and fairly steadily and now numbers about 1000 names. There are members in most of the United States and in many foreign countries.

Initial leadership, and much of the preliminary work leading to the organization of the Society, rested with the scientific staff of the United States Bureau of Biological Survey (now known as the United States Fish and Wildlife Service). At a meeting of that staff held on December 5, 1918, at the home of Vernon Bailey, a committee of five men was appointed to outline plans for the organization of a mammal society of national scope. This original committee, composed of Ned Hollister, Arthur H. Howell, Hartley H. T. Jackson, Edward A. Preble, and Walter P. Taylor, was soon augmented to include Glover M. Allen, of the Boston Society of Natural History; Joseph Grinnel, University of California; Wilfred H. Osgood, Field Museum of Natural History; and Witmer Stone, Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. It drew up a set of by-laws, gave due attention to the many minor details necessary for organization, and, finally, called the first meeting of the Society.

To date, March, 1946, there have been fourteen presidents of the Society. The late Dr. C. Hart Merriam was the first. The selection of Dr. Merriam was a particularly appropriate and happy choice because, as the first Chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey and a foremost mammalogist, he was especially well equipped to lead the new Society on a sound, sure, upward path. Succeeding presidents, in chronological order of incumbency, are: Edward W. Nelson, Wilfred H. Osgood, William D. Matthew, Glover M. Allen, Witmer Stone, Marcus W. Lyon, Jr., Vernon Bailey, Harold E. Anthony, Joseph Grinnell, Hartley H. T. Jackson, Walter P. Taylor, A. Brazier Howell and E. Raymond Hall.

The object of the Society, as stated in its Bylaws, is "the promotion of the interests of Mammalogy by holding meetings, issuing serial or other publications, aiding research, and engaging in such other activities as may be deemed expedient." To date, the Society has vigorously pursued those objectives. Until 1943, the war period, meetings were held regularly, usually in April or May of each year, in ten cities in the United State, from Massachusetts to California and from Michigan to Louisiana; namely, Ann Arbor, Baton Rouge, Berkeley, Cambridge, Chicago, Denver, New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Washington, D. C. Its official publication, the *Journal of Mammalogy*, appears quarterly—in February, May, August, and November. A volume contains approximately 450 pages, about 380 pages of which consist of forty or forty-five feature articles, twenty or thirty pages of brief notes, ten pages of book reviews and news items, and forty or fifty pages of bibliography of recent literature—a feature of particular value to any student of mammals. The first volume, consisting of five numbers instead of the normal four, was completed in 1920. The current (1946) volume is the twenty-seventh in the series. The *Journal* is of considerable value to every person interested in mammals, be he systematist, paleontologist, anatomist, physiologist, ecologist, conservationalist, museum technician, or sportsman; articles concerned with the particular field of interest of each appear in every volume. To make the subject material in the *Journal* easily accessible, a detailed subject and author index for volumes one through twenty has been published. Similar subsequent indices will cover ten volumes. In addition

to the *Journal*, the Society sponsors a series of monographs, which appear at irregular intervals. Three have appeared to date; namely, *Anatomy of the Wood Rat*, by A. Brazier Howell; *The Beaver*, by Edward R. Warren; and *Life of the Carlsbad Cavern*, by Vernon Bailey.

There are four classes of members; namely, Annual, Life, Patron, and Honorary; all are elective. Each member is entitled to receive the *Journal of Mammalogy* and to exercise certain other privileges. Dues are three dollars per year. Life Members, Patrons, and Honorary Members are exempt from annual dues.

The Bylaws provide that sections of the Society may be organized in any locality by five or more members. In 1920, members living in the vicinity of Berkeley, California, formed a local chapter, but disbanded a few years later and gave their undivided interest and support to the national Society.

The Society is officially affiliated with the American Association for the Advancement of Science (affiliated on November 20, 1921), Union of Biological Societies, and National Academy of Sciences, and is represented on the American Committee of International Wild Life Protection and the Isaak Walton League.—Emmet T. Hooper, *Corresponding Secretary.*

The Alabama Academy of Science

The Alabama Academy of Science was organized and came into being largely because of the efforts and vision of Dr. Wright A. Gardener. In June of 1923, Dr. Gardener wrote letters to the Presidents, Deans of Science, and Professors of Science in the schools of higher learning in the state and requested their opinions as to whether it would be advisable to organize a state academy of science in Alabama. The replies were encouraging, so Dr. Gardener arranged to have the first meeting in the Spring of 1924. The organization meeting was held April 3–4, 1924, at Montgomery in conjunction with the Alabama Educational Association. The Alabama Academy of Science served as the science section of the above organization. There were two sessions, and forty-one papers were listed on the program. The Alabama Academy of Science met with the Educational Association in 1925, also. Since 1926, the Academy has held its meetings independently.

The Academy met in general session for several years, but as the membership increased there was a demand for separate sections. There are eight sections at present. The membership includes Honorary, Life, Sustaining, Active, Associate, and Junior members. The total membership is approximately 230 individuals.

The abstracts of the papers of the first meetings were published in 1926. The second volume published by the Academy consisted of the proceedings for the years 1927–1930, inclusive. The *Journal* has appeared annually since 1931, and the current volume will be XVIII. An occasional complete paper was published along with the abstracts of papers presented up to and including Volume XII, 1941. Since then the number of complete papers has increased. Volume XVI, 1945, contains eight complete papers in addition to the abstracts.

The Junior Academy of Science was organized in 1933, and has held its meetings at the same time and place as the senior Academy. The activities of the Junior Academy have included both a lecture program and a scientific exhibit.

The twenty-third annual meeting of the Alabama Academy of Science will be held at the Tutwiler Hotel, Birmingham, Alabama, on May 3–4, 1946.—Emmett B. Carmichael.

Membership in the Association

Eligibility for Membership

Membership in the Association is open to all persons engaged in scientific work, whether in the fields of the natural or the social sciences; to all amateur scientists, whatever their special interests; and to all who desire to follow the advances of science and its effects upon civilization. Members having made substantial contributions to the advancement of science are eligible for election as fellows.

Dues and Publications

Membership dues are $5 per year, including subscriptions for the monthly A.A.A.S. Bulletin and either the weekly journal *Science*, now in its 103d volume, or *The Scientific Monthly*, now in its 62d volume. *Science* is a journal for professional scientists; the *Monthly* is a nontechnical journal for the intelligent public. The Association also publishes technical symposia and nontechnical books on science that are available for members at prices substantially below those to the public.

Organization and Meetings

The Association was founded in 1848, with an initial membership of 461. Papers in its early programs were classified as either natural philosophy or natural history. Now its work is organized under 16 sections and 190 associated societies having a total membership of over 500,000. Its annual meetings are the greatest regular gatherings of scientists in the world.

Nominations and Applications for Membership

Members may submit nominations for membership at any time, and persons desiring to become members can obtain membership application forms from the Office of the Permanent Secretary, the Smithsonian Institution Building, Washington 25, D. C.

Changes of Address

New addresses for the Association's record and for mailing the journals *Science* and *The Scientific Monthly*, as well as the A.A.A.S. Bulletin, should be in the Office of the Permanent Secretary, Washington 25, D. C., at least two weeks in advance of the date when the change is to become effective.

Officers of the Association

President, James B. Conant; *Permanent Secretary*, F. R. Moulton; *General Secretary*, Otis W. Caldwell; *Treasurer*, W. E. Wrather.

Executive Committee: Anton J. Carlson, *Chairman*; Otis W. Caldwell, Arthur H. Compton, James B. Conant, Charles F. Kettering, Burton E. Livingston, Kirtley F. Mather, Walter R. Miles, F. R. Moulton, Fernandus Payne, and Elvin C. Stakman.